(f) the extent to which the trade between the two countries has improved/likely to improve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (f) The second meeting of the Indo-US Economic and Commercial Sub-Commission was held on 17th December, 1996 at Washington, USA. The meeting provided an opportunity to both Indian and US sides of the Sub-Commission to discuss and review the existing linkages between the economies of the two countries with a view to identify the areas of Indo-US cooperation. At this meeting, it was agreed to create fora for exchange of experiences in regulation of the provision of infrastructure services and to encourage agency to agency technical cooperation and assistance in power and surface transport sectors. The Sub-Commission also recommended to explore possibility of creation of a mechanism for capital market development which would encourage conferences and meetings for discussing relevant issues.

Approvals of Foreign Direct Investment proposals from USA amounted to Rs. 100558.70 million in the year 1996 as compared to Rs. 45743.64 million in the year 1997 (January-April). India's trade with USA has been increasing every year at an impressive rate, and was US $ 9.917 billion in 1996-97 as compared to US $ 9.381 billion in 1995-96. The exports to USA during 1996-97 have shown a growth of over 18.55% in US dollar terms and imports have registered fall by nearly 12.62% in US dollar terms. Growth in exports to USA of 18.55% in US dollar terms is higher than India's overall export growth rate i.e. 6.57% in US $ terms.

Small Scale Industries

1734. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee of small scale industries named Laghu-Udyog Bharati, Delhi has submitted any memorandum to the Government last month regarding problems being faced by the small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government there-on?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The memorandum submitted by Laghu Udyog Bharati, dated 23rd June, 1997 refers to news item published in the Pioneer on 14th June, 1997 regarding "hinting at dereservation of 80 SSI items" and requests the Government to invite them for such a meeting if any, to express their views.

(c) An appropriate reply has already been sent to Laghu Udyog Bharati, Delhi.

DA/Wages of Kanpur Mill

1735. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the annual supervisory expenditure of Mills under N.T.C. B.I.C., TAPCO and Vegetable Oil Corporation in Kanpur at present

(b) whether the pay scales and other allowances of textile mill employees in Kanpur have not been revised since 1985 where the pay-scales of supervisors and officers of these mills are being amended as per rules;

(c) if so, the reasons for this discrimination; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to revise the pay and allowances of the employees of these mills ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The annual supervisory expenditure of mills under NTC, BIC, TAFCO, and HVOC located in Kanpur is as follows:-

		Rs. in crore
1.	NTC	1.19
2.	BIC	4.51
3.	TAFCO	2.19
4.	HVOC	0.35

(b) to (d) The monthly paid clerical and other staff of the textile mills of NTC in Kanpur have claimed parity of their pay scales with the staff of the head office. They have filed writ petitions in the courts and their case is sub-judice before the Supreme Court.

As far as the mills of BIC and its subsidiaries in Kanpur are concerned, on submission by the petitioners of these mills that they had no surviving grievance, their writ petitions were dismissed as withdrawn by the Supreme Court.

The pay scale of supervisors and officers of the mills located at Kanpur are revised from time to time as per the orders of the Department of Pubic Enterprises.

Income Tax Law

1736. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to rectify the infrastructural weaknesses of Income Tax and Excise departments to motivate recovery of taxes;

(b) if so, the details of the concrete steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether the Government thinks lacunae in the existing Income Tax and other taxes laws; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bottlenecks in the existing laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, in the case to decided of Central Excise & Customs field formations, it nas been decided to enhance the budget provisions under office expenses to provide them better facilities. The improved facilities are likely to augment the recovery of taxes.

(c) and (d) Tax Laws are regularly updated taking into account the need to the hour, development in trade and industry and judicial pronouncements.

Garment Export Policy

1737. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :

DR. ASIM BALA :

SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether their is any proposal under Government's consideration for overhauling the garment export policy in its operational aspects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is proposed to be overhauled; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for development and technological upgrada-tion of textile industry to make it internationally competitive?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R. L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal under Government's consideration for overhauling the garments export policy in its operational aspects.

(b) A proposal is under formulation to facilitate modernisation of the textile industry through technological upgradation. The intended objective is to improve production and productivity of the Indian textile industry to make it more competitive, including in the export market. Details of a Technology Upgradation Fund for textiles and jute industries are being worked out.

Dumping of Newsprint by Foreign Countries

1738. SHRI SUBRAHAMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any final decision in regard to the complaints received from the India Newsprint Manufactures, Association;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also initiated investigation in December last year into the charges for dumping newsprint by certain countries like Russia, Canada and the US;

(c) if so, the outcome of the enquiry;

(d) whether the investigation is being instituted by his Ministry; and

(e) if so, the time by which a final action is likely to be taken against those held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE : (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (e) The Designated Authority appointed under the Customs Tariff Act and the rules made thereunder initiated investigation on 20.12.96 for alleged dumping of newsprint by USA, Canada and Russia. The Designated Authority has notified the preliminary findings in the Officials Gazette on 11.6.97 recommending imposition of provisional anti-dumping duties on newsprint from the said three countries.

Under the anti-dumping investigations are required to be completed within one year from the date of Initiation, which can be further extended by six months. The final decision In the case of newsprint will be taken within the prescribed statutory time limits.

[Translation]

IDBI Loan to Private Jet Planes Company

1739. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :

KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge loan amounting to crores of rupees payable to the Industrial Development Bank of India is outstanding against a private company engaged in operation of jet planes;

(b) if so, the name of the private company and the amount of loan outstanding against it alongwith the date since when it has been outstanding;

(c) the basis on which the loan was advanced to this company;

(d) whether the interest is also proposed to be charged on this loan;

(e) if so, the total amount of interest as on date; and

(f) the time by which and the manner In which the Government propose to recover this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a), (b), (d) and (e) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it had sanctioned and disbursed assistance of Rs. 3.45 crores to one private air operator, who had jets in the fleet of aircrafts. However, in accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and